

MINUTES  
COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES  
October 27, 2010

The CODI Meeting was called to order by Ernie Martinez, Chairman at 1:40 pm. Mr. Martinez spoke about some housekeeping rules for CODI meetings. He said that if a person addressing the CODI board couldn't be polite or becomes unruly they would be asked to leave and it would take a vote by CODI to have the person come back to future meetings. He also said that people from the board would speak first and then people from the public; members of the public would have three minute. Roll call us done. **Attendance:** J. Martinez, J. Miller, J. David, S. Hix, A. Rigerman, S. Kohlenberg, R. Fulton, P. Rodriguez, M. Schmidt, D. Valkema, J. Granda and P. Edwards.

Agenda was read and the October 2010 agenda and the September 2010 Minutes were approved with one correction in the minutes: Palm Beach North Park is changed to Palm Spring North Park.

**Access Committee:** Mr. David, Chair, reported that he was not able to speak with the building manager at the Clark Center but anticipates he will have some information for the next committee meeting. He also said that with the issue of meeting format, he will need to wait until Ilene Hyams is able to speak with Heidi Johnson-Wright about the types of access the Office of ADA will be able to provide for future CODI meetings. He turned over his report to Dr. Lessne who spoke about a project he is doing through the Center for Independent Living. This project is to have inmates at County jails train rescue dogs for people who have various disabilities. He explained that they will not be training Seeing Eye dogs but will concentrate on dogs that pull wheelchairs, retrieve items or hearing dogs. He also said that the Center for Independent Living will be giving free food to owners with service animals; this program is called Pet Project. There was some discussion that followed his presentation. Mr. David said that the next meeting will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month. Ilene Hyams mentioned that date was a holiday so Mr. David said he would check the date and possibly change the day of the meeting. Mr. Martinez said that service animals training is placed on the Access agenda.

**Transportation Committee:** Denise Valkema, Co-Chair, reported that the next Transportation committee meeting will be on November 1 from 2:00pm - 4:00pm at the ADA Office. On the agenda will be follow up on various issues brought before the committee last month. She had asked for input on any difficulties with fix route. When the weather gets cooler, the committee will be traveling with Transit on the fix route system. She encouraged people to get a copy of the last month's meeting minutes. Mr. Martinez asked when the old contract is up and what type of style vehicles are in the new contract. Ms. Hix brought up the idea of spotters; people who actually ride para-transit.

**Housing Committee:** Ron Fulton, Co-chair, the next meeting will be on November 5 and HUD has been invited to speak about various funding sources. Pedro Rodriguez, Co-Chair, spoke about his desire to have CODI support two items: set asides for developers who increase the number of accessible and affordable units in their projects and using Neighborhood Stabilization funds to buy foreclosed houses and then have people with disabilities use Section 8 vouchers to obtain the property. He would like to have a planning meeting where there is a discussion on the best ways to bring these issues forward. The subject of people coming out of nursing homes was brought up. Mr. Rodriguez said that the Department of Justice had just sued the State of Florida over two people who needed transitional services in order to leave independently. The Judge ordered attendant care for the two people involved in the suit. Jackson David said that the staff from the Center for Independence would be getting training and will be certified by the State to provide services to people trying to come out of nursing homes.

**New Business:** Mr. Martinez introduced William Velez, Para-transit Chief. Mr. Martinez said Mr. Velez his vision of Para-transit; Mr. Velez said it was to build a sensitive team that would be able to deliver excellent service every day. He thanked Martha Cox for her support and help while he transitioned into the job. Mr. Martinez looked forward to working with Mr. Velez and hopes to understand more about the civil rights and procedures used in running the para-transit program. The next meeting will be on November 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm on the 18<sup>th</sup> floor of the Clark Building.

Maude Gonzales, ADA Coordinator for Transit, brought to CODI an example of the tactile warnings and lighting component that will be used at the platform at the Metro-Rail Airport Link. The platform will be black

granite so it well meets the contrast standard for people with low vision. Mr. Menendez from Transit gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Miami Intermodal Center (MIC)/ Earlington Heights Connector Metrorail Extension Airport.

This is an extension of 2.4 miles which will connect the Metrorail, Tri Rail, Amtrak, Greyhound Buses and the new car rental facility with the Miami International Airport. The link is a multi-level building which will bring people through a people mover into the airport. The project should be done by April 2012.

**Old Business:** There was a discussion on para-transit trips and Election Day. Mr. Velez said that same day trips can't be done for this Election Day because only the County can approved same day trips. It was mentioned that the County hasn't done same day trips for a couple of years now and will only consider it when there is an emergency trip to the doctors. What they can do for people who are going to vote is allow earlier or later pick up from the polls. It was suggested by John Miller to ask ATS if they could put that information on the line when a caller is waiting on the phone to make their reservation. Mr. Z. Naiditch was there and he said that the reservationists have been informed about the early or late pick up when a person is going to vote.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.